Increase in forest area in Guwahati

*94. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leopards are coming into the city of Guwahati due to shrinking of forests; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to increase the forest area so that wild animals do not enter the residential areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Guwahati city has large number of forest hillocks abutting the city. Over the years, the city made inroads into these forests and the recent instances of leopards coming into the colonies is due to the fact that these colonies have been established in the erstwhile natural habitats of these leopards. So far, no human deaths have been reported. Some killing of livestock does takes place. The State Government captures such leopards and relocate them into other wildlife habitats. The disabled leopards which are difficult to rehabilitate are kept in the State Zoo.

(b) The forest area in the State is about 30% of its geographic area which is higher than the average forest area of the country. Even then afforestation programmes are being carried out under the State Plan as well as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Earmaking of funds for afforestation purpose has been made for north-eastern States. The Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 12.12.96 has extended the applicability of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to these areas which are covered under the dictionary sense of the forest in addition to the areas already notified as forests. The State Government has been asked to furnish details of encroachments that have been made in the forests to ensure that no further encroachments are made in future.

Intereonnecting Primary Health Centres

†*95. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to inter-connect Primary Health Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Primary Health Centres being run in the country at present, State-wise; and

(c) the number of such Centres which Government have decided to inter-connect in the first phase and the total amount earmarked to be spent for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No, Sir. No specific scheme has been formulated to inter-connect the Primary Health Centres in the country.

However, the Primary Health Centres are linked with Sub-Centres and Community Health Centres for the purpose of referral of patients, logistics and supplies, supervision of personnel and monitoring.

(b) A Statement indicating the number of Primary Health Centres in the country, State-wise, is enclosed (*See* below)

(c) State Governments are attempting to devise better convergence of facilities, supplies and services at the Primary Health Centres.

Statement

Number of Primary Health Centres functioning in the country

Sl. No.	States/UTs	PHCs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1636
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45
3.	Assam	619
4.	Bihar	2209
5.	Goa	17
6.	Gujarat	967
7.	Haryana	401

Sl. No.	States/UTs	PHCs
8.	Himachal Pradesh	312
9.	J&K	337
10.	Karnataka	1676
11.	Kerala	962
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1690
13.	Maharashtra	1699
14.	Manipur	69
15.	Meghalaya	85
16.	Mizoram	55
17.	Nagaland	33
18.	Orissa	1352
19.	Punjab	484
20.	Rajasthan	1662
21.	Sikkim	24
22.	Tamil Nadu	1436
23.	Tripura	58
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3808
25.	West Bengal	1262
26.	A & N Islands	17
27.	Chandigarh	—
28.	D & N Haveli	6
29.	Daman & Diu	3
30.	Delhi	8
31.	Lakshadweep	4
32.	Pondicherry	39
	All India	22975